WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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BUCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

- of -

DR. A. CATHCART, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year

1955

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BUCKLEY,

Flintshire.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Buckley Urban District for the year 1955.

The 1951 Census gave a population of 7,699 (3,793 Males and 3,906 Females) as compared with the 1931 Census population of 7,053 (3,626 Males and 3,427 Females), an increase in the population of 646 or a percentage increase of 9.2% in 20 years.

The estimated population for June 1955 is 7,700, an increase of 30 since last year.

The total number of live births was 96, the same number as in 1954, and in consequence the birth rateis 13.13 per 1000 of the population in 1955 as compared with 15.48 per 1000 of the population in 1954.

For comparison with other areas the rate is 13.13 which is slightly lower than that for England and Wales which is 15.0 per 1000 of the population.

The total deaths recorded during the year is 95, which is 4 less than in 1954, so that the death rate corrected is 12.71 per 1000 of the home population, as compared with 13.29 in 1954. It is higher than the rate for England and Wales, which is 11.7 per 1000 of the home population.

There were 2 deaths in infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 20.8 per 1000 live births as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 24.9. I have given a detailed report of the causes of these infantile deaths.

The principal cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, which accounted for 44 of the 95 deaths during the year, so that 46.3%of all deaths occurred in this group of diseases (17 - 21 inclusive in the Table - Causes of Death).

Cancer accounted for 10 deaths, 8 less than in 1954. Cancer accounted for 10.5% of all deaths. There was 1 death from Cancer of the lungs or bronchus, 2 less than the 1954 figure.

This year there was one death from Tuberculosis, a rate of .13 per 1000 of the population.

Accidents accounted for 5 deaths in 1955, as compared with 7 in 1954.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria, nor were there any maternal deaths in 1955.

As regards Infectious diseases, for Pneumonia there were 9 cases in 1955, one less than in 1954. Whilst Measles increased from 59 to 180, Whooping Cough showed a fall in the number of notified cases from 26 in 1954 to 3 in 1955.

There were no cases of Infantile paralysis during the year.

In conclusion, I must express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of your Health Committee and all your Officials, particularly your Clerk, Mr. Hughes, who is ever willing to advise and guide me, Mr. R. Messham, whose local knowledge is invaluable, and your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Watkin, who supports me loyally.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

A. CATHCART.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	2677
Population (Census 1951)	...	7699
Population (Estimated June 1955)	...	7700
Density (Number of persons per acre).		2.87
Number of Inhabited houses	...	2244
Number of occupied houses owned by Local Authority	...	479
New Houses certified	...	30
Births	...	96
Birth Rate (Per 1000 of home population)		13.09
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	...	15.0
Deaths	...	95
Death Rate (Per 1000 of home population)		12.71
Death Rate (England and Wales)	...	11.70
Infantile Mortality (Per 1000 live births)		20.84
Death rate of all forms of Tuberculosis (Rate per 1000 population)		0.13

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	2677
Population (Census 1931)	...	7053
Population (Census 1951)	...	7699
Population (Estimated June 1955)	...	7700
Number of inhabited houses	...	2244
Rateable Value	...	£33,867
Sum represented by 1d rate	...	£132

The Buckley Urban District is situated on a foothill of the Clwydian Range to the North East of the County of Flint, and is bounded on the North, East and South by the Hawarden Rural District and in the North, West and South by the Holywell Rural District.

The subsoil is clay in the greater part of the area. Below are the lower coal measures now very little worked. The principal industries are Cement, Brick and Tile and Pipe Works, together with Agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

ESTIMATED MID-YEAR HOME POPULATION - 7700.

Comparability Factors.

Births.	Deaths.
1.05	1.03

L I V E B I R T H S.

	M.	F.	Total.	Birth rate per 1000 home population.
Total	51	45	96	13.09
Legitimate	51	45	96	13.09
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

S T I L L B I R T H S.

	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Total (Live and still births).
Total	1	1	2	20.41
Legitimate	1	1	2	20.41
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	M.	F.	Total.	Infantile mortality per 1000 live births.
Total	1	1	2	20.84
Legitimate	1	1	2	20.84
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH.

		Males.	Fomales.
1.	Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	1
2.	do. Other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease.	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective - Parasitic disease	1	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	2
11.	do. do. - Lung bronchus.	1	-
12.	do. do. - Breast	-	2
13.	do. do. - Uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasm	1	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	6	6
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	7	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	3
20.	Other heart disease	8	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	1
22.	Influenza	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	3	3
24.	Bronchitis	3	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	2	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformation	-	-
32.	Other defined or ill-defined diseases	8	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34.	All other accidents	1	3
35.	Suicide	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
		48	47

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH RATES CIVILIAN DEATH RATES.
ANALYSIS OF MORBALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES
FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1955.

	Rates per 1000 Civilian population.	
	England & Wales.	Buckley U.D.
BIRTHS.		
Live Births ...	15.0	13.09
Still Births ...	23.1	20.5
DEATHS.		
All Causes ...	11.7	12.71
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.003	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.15	0.01
Influenza ...	0.07	0.04
Small Pox ...	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.003	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.40	0.08
DEATHS.	Rates per 1000 Live Births.	
All causes under 1 year of age	24.9	20.84
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.8	0.10

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year 1955, there were two deaths in Infants under one year of age, one boy and one girl. Details of these infantile deaths are:-

	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.
1.	Female.	1 hour.	Asphyxia Neonatorum Maternal Eclampsia.
2.	Male.	3 months.	Gastro Enteritis.

The infantile mortality rate of 20.84 per 1000 live births is lower than the rate for England and Wales, 24.9.

TABULATED DEATH RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1955.

IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Males.	Females.	Total.	% Total Deaths.
Under 1 year.	1	1	2	2.1
1-14 years (inclusive)	1	1	2	2.1
15-24 years.	-	1	1	1.0
25-44 years.	1	1	2	2.1
45-69 years.	21	15	36	37.9
Over 70 years.	24	28	52	54.7
	48	47	95	

In this Table the deaths have been assigned to certain age groups, and it will be seen that -

1. There were 7 deaths in persons under the age of 25 years or 7.3% of all deaths.
2. 54.7% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 70.
3. 92.6% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 45.

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Public Health Officials of the URBAN AUTHORITY consist of -

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A. Cathcart, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector - A.G. Watkin, M.S.I.A.,
Certificate R.S.I. and S.I.J.B.
Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Foods.
Certificate R.S.I. Smoke Inspector.

NURSING IN THE HOME. The District Nursing Association is now administered by the Flintshire County Council.

MIDWIVES. There are three qualified Midwives in the Urban District.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE. Three qualified Medical Practitioners reside in the area and they are responsible for the treatment of persons under the above Act. Of these three Medical Practitioners, who are Principals in practice, two have one Assistant each. One of these Assistant Medical Practitioners resides inside the Urban District, so that, in all, five Medical Practitioners are available for the population of Buckley and contiguous rural areas.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. This work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Conway and Birkenhead. The Laboratory attached to The Chester Royal Infirmary is also available for investigations of a particular or urgent nature.

HOSPITALS.
Isolation. None. Infectious disease cases needing isolation and treatment are now sent to the Isolation Hospital at Pentrobin in the Hawarden Rural District, or are accommodated by arrangement with the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee.

SMALLPOX. None.

TUBERCULOSIS. None. Cases from the area are sent to the Welsh National Memorial Hospital at Meadowslea, Penyffordd, about three miles away, and may be transferred from there on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Medical Officer for Denbighshire and Flintshire to the Sanitorium at Llangwyfan, Denbigh, or one of the other Welsh Sanatoria.

MATERNITY. None. A County Maternity Hospital is situated at Mancot Royal, approximately four and a half miles away. Pathological cases may be sent to one of the Chester Hospitals.

CHILDREN'S. None. Children are hospitalised at the Chester Royal Infirmary, Maelor General Hospital, Wrexham, or occasionally in special cases at the Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool.

GENERAL HOSPITALS. Emergency cases may be sent to the Royal Infirmary or City Hospital, Chester, or occasionally to the Mold Hospital.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN. Provision is made by The County Council at the St. Asaph Institution.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES. The supervision of cases under the Mental Deficiency Acts is carried out by the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. This service is provided by the County Council.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare. There is an Anti-Natal Centre and Infant Child Welfare Centre conducted by the County Council at the Welsh C.M. Schoolroom, the former on the first and third Monday afternoon, and the latter every Monday afternoon.

Day Nurseries - None.

School Clinics. A School Clinic supervised by the County Medical Officer of Health and his Assistants is held on the Tuesday of each week in the Welsh C.M. Schoolroom.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries. None in the area. There is a visiting Station at "Oaklands", Queensferry, at which the Tuberculosis Officer or his Assistant see patients once a fortnight. There is also a Clinic every Monday and Thursday afternoon at Meadowslea Hospital, Penyffordd.

Venereal Diseases. None. Cases are sent to the Venereal Diseases Clinic at The Royal Infirmary, Chester, by arrangement between the County Authorities and the Chester Royal Infirmary.

WATER. The water supply is provided by the Hawarden and District Waterworks Company. This Company impounds upland water in the mountains at Cilcain about 10 miles distant from Buckley.

The Company now possesses at Pren Brigog, two covered Reservoirs having a total capacity of 1,000,000 gallons, equal to approximately four days' normal consumption.

All samples of water taken during the year have been reported as "Class 1 - Highly satisfactory."

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - Below I give a table showing the number of dwelling houses in each Ward and the various types of Closets in use therein:-

Name of Ward.	No. of Houses.	Pail Closets.	Water Closets.	Total.
Ewloe Town.	278	124	154	278
Ewloe Wood.	282	153	129	282
Pentrobin.	347	68	279	347
Argoed.	328	29	299	328
Bistre East.	386	24	362	386
Bistre West.	623	71	552	623
Total	2244	469	1775	2244

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION is carried out by direct labour.

SMOKE ABATEMENT - No action was necessary with a view to smoke abatement.

S C H O O L S

Name of School.	Situation.	Water Supply.
St. Matthew's.	Church Road.	Hawarden Waterworks Co.
St. Matthew's Infants.	Church Road.	do.
Lane End Infants.	Chester Road.	do.
Bistre C. of E.	Mold Road.	do.
Buckley Council.	Padeswood Road.	do.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The Swimming and Plunge Baths situated behind the Public Library were a gift of the Miners Welfare Committee. The water is supplied by the Hawarden Waterworks Company. It is filtered, chlorinated and aerated continuously throughout the season.

There are no privately owned Baths or Pools.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are no such premises or occupations.

There are no premises within the area on which rag flock is manufactured or sold.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health & Housing Acts) ...	402
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	631
2	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	30
	(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ...	57
3		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	-
4		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	204

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 164

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year 1955.

(a) Proceedings Under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs — Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices — Nil.
(a) By Owners
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied — Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices. — Nil.

(a) By owners. — Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. — Nil.
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. — Nil.

(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. — Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of whichClosing Orders were made — Nil.

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit — Nil.

THE FOLLOWING SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1955.

Pail closets abolished	...	5
New Water Closets erected	...	5
Old drains taken up	...	21
New drains laid down	...	33
Inspection chambers provided	...	9
New sinks provided	...	9
New trapped waste pipes provided.		14
Roofs repaired	...	53
New Ashbins provided	...	56
Ashpits abolished	...	-
Floors repaired and renewed	...	16
Eaves, Gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	41
Damp proof courses provided	...	3
Yards paved	...	12
Food stores provided	...	4
Houses inspected	...	402
Houses repaired	...	163
Visits to houses	...	631
Visits to food premises	...	174

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits to infected houses	...	20
Houses disinfected	...	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	10	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	9	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Measles	190	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Acute Polio Myelitis	-	-	-

There were 10 cases of Scarlet Fever during 1955, the same number as in 1954. All were mild cases.

There were 10 cases of Pneumonia, with 6 deaths.

Measles cases increased from 59 to 190, whilst Whooping Cough accounted for 3 cases in 1955 as compared with 26 in 1954.

There were no deaths from these diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1955.

	Acute Polio Myelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year											5	
1 to 2				1				1			37	
3 to 4				2							54	3
5 to 9				7				1			93	
10 to 14												
15 to 24								7			1	
25 & over												
TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED				10				9			190	3
Cases sent to Hospital				10								
Total deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1955.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Age Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	4	6	-	1	-	1	-	-

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Cases Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At home.	In Hospital.				
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK. No samples of Milk were taken during the year. This Service is carried out by the Flintshire County Council.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, the enforcement of regulations and registration of dairy farms (except in so far as they relate to diseases communicable to man) is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Local Authority is responsible for those provisions which apply outside dairy farms and Milk distributors' premises have been regularly inspected.

ICE-CREAM PREMISES During the year one shop was registered for the sale of Ice-Cream.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

MEAT INSPECTION. Slaughtering during the year has been carried out in three private slaughterhouses. Two are licensed premises, slaughtering being allowed in the third without prejudice pending improvements to the lairage.

Inspection of all meat slaughtered has been carried out.

Meat is also inspected in Butchers' shops in the area.

During the year Meat and Offal have been condemned as follows:-

Meat condemned.	Cause of condemnation.	Weight.
Forequarters Bullock	Localised T.B.	211 lbs.
Offal - Various	Localised T.B.	162 lbs.
	Other causes	293 lbs.
	Cysticercosis	Nil.
	Total	666 lbs.

All food shops and premises were regularly inspected during the year.

The following foodstuffs were examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Food Condemned.	Amount.	Cause of Condemnation.	Weight.	
			lbs.	ozs.
Luncheon Meat	14 tins.	Blown.	10	3
Minced Beef Loaf	8 tins	Blown.	8	0
Jellied Veal	5 tins	Metallic Contamination and Blown.	38	0
Tinned Ham	5 tins	Blown and Bone taint.	58	8
Bacon		Decomposition.	14	9
Tinned Soup	25 tins	Rusted and Punctured.	25	0
Tinned Vegetables	16 tins	Blown.	13	14
Evaporated Milk	1 tin	Blown.	1	0
Tinned Apple Jelly	10 tins	Blown.	15	0
Tinned Fruit etc.	78 tins	Blown.	82	5
Pickles	20 jars	Fermentation.	15	0
Baking Powder	13 packets	Loss of Power.	3	4
Dessicated cocoanut	10 packets	Mould	10	0
			294	11

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1955, FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKLEY.

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	No. of written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	17	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	51	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. (Excluding out-workers' premises.)	2	4	-	-
TOTAL	40	72	-	-

Cases in which defects were found.

	No. of cases in which defects were found.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences				
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 & 111)

---------- NIL ----------

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY